



Charter School 101



Memphis – September 2013



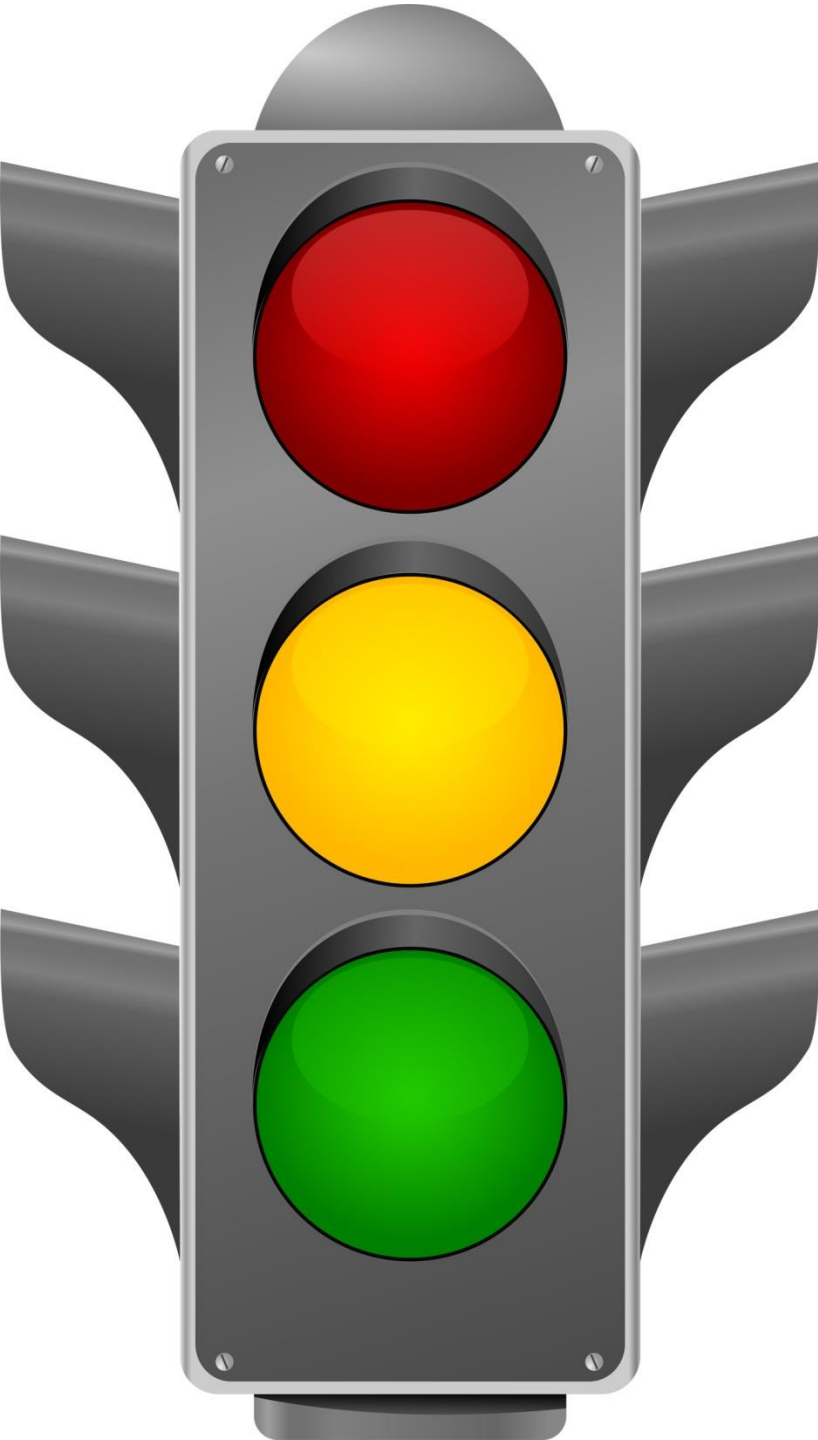
Priority 2: Expand families' access to good schools



Driving belief: Parents should be able to choose from among multiple, high quality school options. No child should be stuck in a failing school.

Key Strategies

- Turn around the lowest-performing schools in the state through the Achievement School District
- Help districts and schools that are not meeting goals create plans that lead to improvement
- Support and incent districts to build strong schools
- Increase families' access to high-quality school options

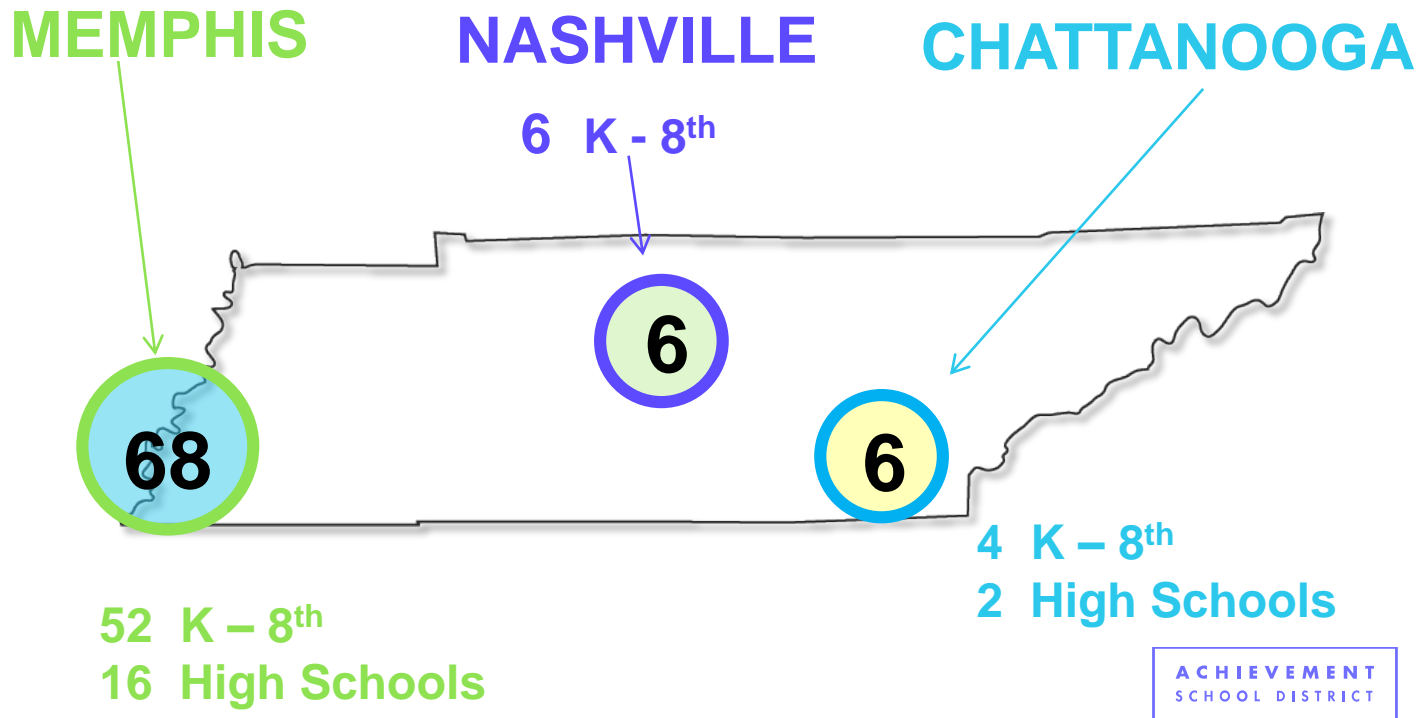


Priority

Focus

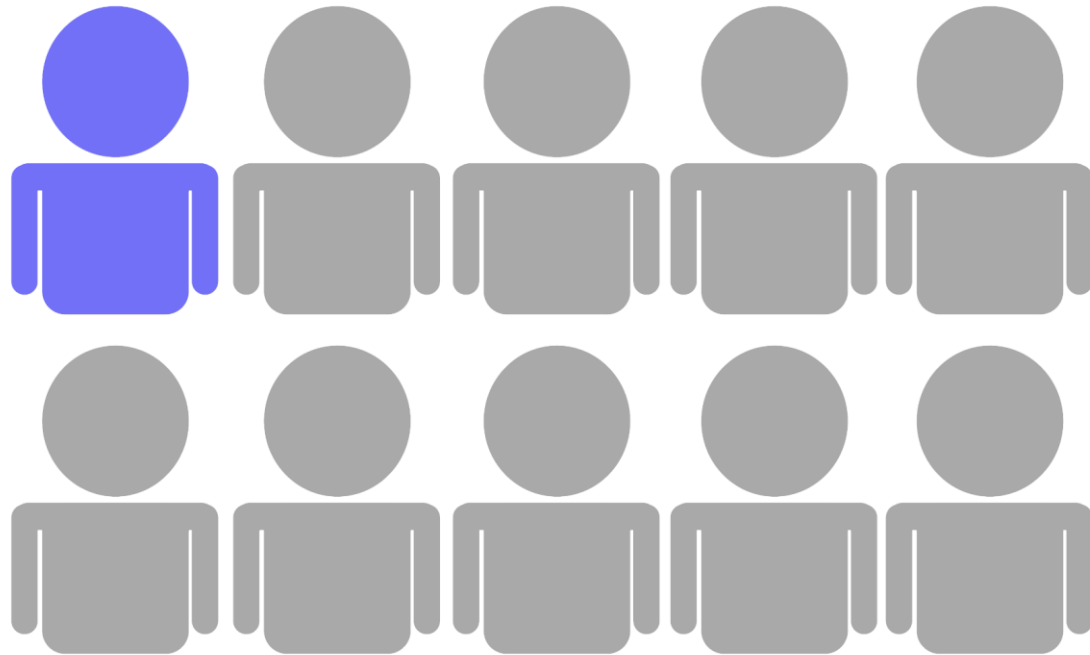
Reward

State's Priority List: Bottom 5% of schools are currently concentrated in 3 large urban districts



Learning Power

In Tennessee's bottom 5% of schools, only 1 out of 10 students read and write on grade level.





Gestalt
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



ACHIEVEMENT
SCHOOL DISTRICT



**SCHOOL
IMPROVEMENT
GRANTS**

EXPLORE DATASET



1. In Tennessee, a public charter school . . .
 - a. Is the reason my child didn't make the football team.
 - b. Can do lots of things non-chartered public schools cannot.
 - c. Is considered part of the school district.
 - d. Enrolls the smartest kids in the district and takes money from public schools.
 - e. b and d



Autonomy . . .



Photo: Justin Edmonds/Getty
Images North America 10/27/12

. . . and Accountability



Photo: Dustin Bradford, Getty Images

A background image of a football game. Several players in orange jerseys and white pants are visible on a green field. One player in the foreground is wearing jersey number 18. Another player is wearing jersey number 13. The scene is captured during a play, with players in various stances. The background is slightly blurred, showing a crowd of spectators.

You're the principal, right?

To empower others, leaders “[f]ocus talent on results, not methods.” “[Y]ou cannot hold people responsible for results if you supervise their methods. *You* then become responsible for results and rules replace human judgment, creativity and responsibility.” Effective leaders “set up the *conditions of empowerment* and then . . . get out of people’s way, clear their path and become a source of help as requested.”
-- Stephen Covey, THE 8TH HABIT

The Authorizer



Applications



ACHIEVEMENT
SCHOOL DISTRICT



Core Knowledge®



Is this a public school?





504 or IDEA?



A^B C
B A C D

6 A C D

7 A C D

8 A B D

9 B C D

10 A B C

11 B C D

12 A B D

13 A C D

14 A B D

15 A B C

16 A B C

17 A C D

18 B C D

19 A C D

20 A B D

21 A B D

22 A B C

1 B C D

2 A B D

3 A C D

4 B C D

5 A B C



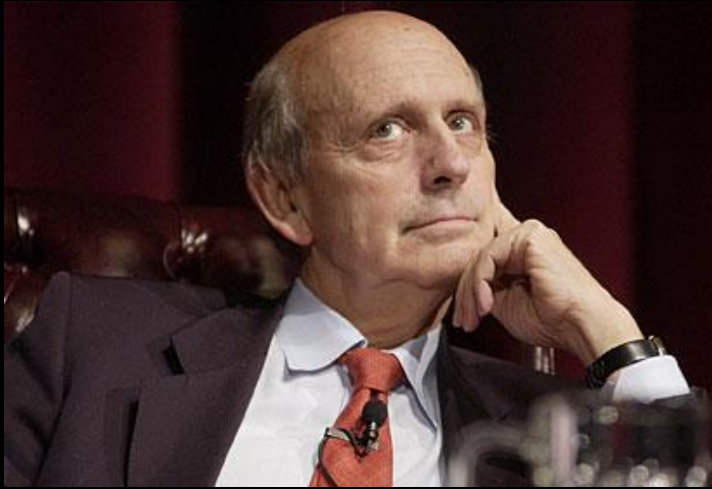
T CAP

The Point: Our Kids



He's a Tennessean!

The law, by itself,
can't make the world more awesome.



Justice Stephen Breyer

[T]he Constitution is not a document designed to solve the problems of a community at any level—local, state, or national. Rather it is a document that trusts people to solve those problems themselves.

[T]he people, and their representatives, must have the capacity to exercise their democratic responsibilities. They should possess the tools, such as information and education, necessary to participate and to govern effectively. . . .







Applying for and Opening a Charter School

Shelby County Unified District tn.gov/education/fedprog/Charter_Sch_App.shtml	ASD www.tnasd.org
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• New start• Conversion (phase-in or full)	<u>Options:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• New start• Phase-In (Turnaround)• Full Transformation (Turnaround)

Things to Think About

- What is the capacity of your founding team?
- What is your mission and vision?
- Who are you serving?
- How will you serve them? (What is your school model?)

Approaching the Application

(http://tn.gov/education/fedprog/Charter_Sch_App.shtml)

- Application is an operational plan.
- Don't stray from the application format.
- Don't cut & paste from other applications. If you borrow elements or ideas from others, rewrite it in your own words or cite source.
- Show, don't tell.
- Detailed and concise.

Application Overview

STATE	ASD
<p><u>Introduction</u></p> <p><u>Academic Plan Design & Capacity</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mission & Goals • School Development • Academic Focus & Plan • Special Populations & At-Risk Students • Performance Standards/Assessments/School Culture • Marketing, Recruitment & Enrollment • Community Involvement & Parent Engagement <p><u>Operations Plan & Capacity</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governance • Personnel/Human Capital • Professional Development • Operations Capacity <p><u>Financial Plan & Capacity</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See “Attachments” <p><u>Attachments</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start-Up Plan • Organizational Chart • Governing Body Documents • School Calendar & Schedule • Student Discipline Plan • Facilities Plan • Transportation Plan (if applicable) • Food Service Plan • Public Charter School Budget Workbook • Budget Narrative • Insurance • Waivers • Community Partnerships • Letters of Support 	<p><u>Executive Summary</u></p> <p><u>Enrollment Summary</u></p> <p><u>School Design Plan</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mission & Vision • Transformational Change • Curriculum & Instructional Design • Driving for Results • Special Populations & At-Risk Students • School Structure – Schedule; Culture; Student Discipline; Day in the Life <p><u>Organizational Model</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership Team • Incubation Year Development • Teachers as Leaders • Board Governance • Parent & Community Involvement • Phase-In/Full Transformation Planning <p><u>Operational Capacity</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Services (attachment) • Facilities • Student Recruitment & Enrolment • Start-Up & Ongoing Operations <p><u>Financial Plan</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See “Attachments” <p><u>Attachments</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Calendar, daily & weekly schedule • Student handbook • Leadership team job descriptions & resumes • School leader competencies • Performance monitoring tools • Board Member Roster & Documentation • Bylaws, Code of Ethics/Conflict of Interest Policies, Statement of Assurances • Evidence of community partnerships • Operational execution plan • Independent facility commitment & description (if applicable) • Start-Up Plan • Insurance Coverage • Budget Narrative • Financial Plan Workbook

Academic Plan

- Overview of curricular design elements that will make your school successful at improving student achievement & closing the achievement gap.
- Show how your academic program will support needs of students with disabilities and English language learners.
- Support all claims with research or existing examples of how your academic program has already been successful.
- Shift to Common Core: Beginning in 2014-2015, current TCAP tests in math & ELA will be replaced by an online summative assessment comprised of a Performance Based Assessment (PBA) and an End-of-Year Assessment (EOY). TN is part of the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) Consortium which is designing these new assessments. (<http://www.parcconline.org>).

Operational Plan

- Provide a description of the Board of Directors and how they will govern the school.
- Must apply for 501(c)(3) non-profit status before your application is submitted.
- Personnel narrative should align with your mission & vision, academic program design, budget, and proposed enrollment numbers.
- Provide transportation plan (if applicable).
- If you are applying for a new school, you must clearly explain your plans and viable options for facility acquisition.

Financial Plan

- Ensuring financial stability and proper budgeting practices is essential!
- Budget must include a plan for revenues and expenditures as well as a plan for complying with state and federal accounting and reporting regulations.
- You must demonstrate that your start-up costs, first-year budget, and five-year budget plan are fiscally stable and can support the implementation of your academic program while also make clear any spending assumptions you make.
- Budget **MUST** reflect choices made throughout the rest of the application (e.g. Enrollment projections in personnel section need to be the same enrollment projections used in budget development).

Capacity Interviews

- If you apply to the ASD and pass the initial evaluation, you and your board will be required to participate in interviews.
- Typically two interviews (evaluator panel; community panel).

Questions?

charter.schools@tn.gov

615-741-8486

mroen@tnasd.org

615-970-2176

michelle@tnchartercenter.org

615-401-7222 x211

